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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## South Dakota Airmen return from overseas deployment

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Members of the 114th Fighter Wing, South Dakota Air National Guard, will be welcomed as they return home to Sioux Falls throughout the next week after being deployed for the past several months in support of the United States Air Force's Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) and Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) rotation plans.

The 290 returning Airmen were deployed for varying lengths of time to Iraq and Curacao.

Earlier this month, about 40 Airmen returned from duty in Kyrgyzstan, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and Germany. These Airmen also deployed in support of AEF and ECS rotation plans.

The largest group of these Airmen supported Combat Air Force operations at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The South Dakota F-16 Fighting Falcon jets that deployed in early June 2008 will also be returning to Joe Foss Field this week.

An additional eight members of the South Dakota Air National Guard will remain deployed at bases throughout Southwest Asia during the fall of 2008.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks on America, more than two-thirds of the South Dakota Air National Guard's 1,023 members have actively supported the Global War on Terrorism either at home or abroad in 15 countries.

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